

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 1522

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E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: OVIP (KAUNDA, KENNETH) ZA
SUBJ: KAUNDA VISIT: REPORT THAT KAUNDA MAY THREATEN INVITATION
TO CUBANS

REF: LUSAKA 1471

1. BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER ALLINSON PASSED ON TO ME FOLLOWING
ACCOUNT OF A BREAKFAST WHICH LONDON OBSERVER JOURNALISTS COLIN
LEGUM AND DAVID MARTIN HAD WITH PRESIDENT KAUNDA THURSDAY
MORNING, APRIL 27. MARTIN SHARED IT WITH ALLINSON ON THE
UNDERSTANDING THE HE BE CAREFULLY PROTECTED INCLUDING FROM
LEGUM. REQUEST APPROPRIATE HANDLING.

2. ACCORDING TO MARTIN, KAUNDA APPEARED TIRED AND DISTRAUGHT.
THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT HE SAW HIS VISIT TO SEE CALLAGHAN AND
CARTER AS A LAST RESORT. HE HAD NEVER UNDERSTOOD HOW THE
BRITISH AND AMERICANS PLANNED TO GET RID OF SMITH AND WAS
NEVER ENTIRELY CONVINCED THAT WE WOULD BE ABLE TO DO SO. IT
WAS NOW APPARENT THAT THE PATRIOTIC FRONT DID NOT HAVE THE
MILITARY ABILITY TO DO SO EITHER. HE WOULD THEREFORE MAKE
CLEAR TO THE TWO HEADS OF GOVERNMENT THAT IF THEY WERE NOT
PRE ARED TO GIVE HIM ASSURANCES THAT THEY WOULD GET RID OF
SMITH HE WOULD HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TURN TO THE CUBANS TO
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ACCOMPLISH THE TASK. MARTIN BELIEVED KAUNDA HAD ALREADY DISCUSSED
THIS WITH THE CUBANS.

3. COMMENT: DAVID MARTIN IS ONE OF THE BEST INFORMED OBSERVERS
OF THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN SCENE. HOWEVER, HE HAS HIS OWN VIEWPOINT
SUPPORTING THE PF AND SOVIET/CUBAN BACKING FOR IT WHICH CAN
COLOR HIS WORDS AS WELL AS ACTION. NEVERTHELESS THE REPORT OF

KAUNDA'S STATEMENTS IS NOT FAR FROM THE KINDS OF THINGS WHICH HE AND HIS STATE HOUSE ADVISERS HAVE BEEN SAYING FOR SOME TIME. HOWEVER, IN SPITE OF HIS EMOTIONAL STATE AND CURRENT INTENTIONS, WE FRANKLY FIND IT DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE THAT KAUNDA WOULD REALLY MOVE VERY FAR IN THIS DIRECTION. IT CONFLICTS WITH SO MANY OTHER ACTIONS HE HAS TAKEN RECENTLY. IF HE WAS SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING INVITING SUBSTANTIAL CUBAN INVOLVEMENT IN THE RHODESIAN WARFARE, WOULD HE SEEK MAJOR ECONOMIC COMMITMENTS FROM THE U.S. AND THE UK, CALL FOR A CONSULTATIVE GROUP MEETING OF WESTERN DONORS IN JUNE, PLAN A VISIT TO CHINA, A COMMON-WEALTH FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING, AND INVITE THE QUEEN TO ZAMBIA? HE MUST KNOW OR WILL SOON LEARN THAT NONE WOULD MATERIALIZE IN THE FACE OF THE PRESENCE OF A LARGE CUBAN FORCE IN ZAMBIA AND THAT CANCELLATION OF THESE POPULAR AND DESPERATELY NEEDED ACTIONS WOULD SERIOUSLY THREATEN HIS ALREADY SHAKY LEADERSHIP INSIDE ZAMBIA. REVERSES OF PROMISES OF FOREIGN ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE AND ASSOCIATION WITH THE WEST TO SAY NOTHING OF A LARGE CUBAN PRESENCE COULD DANGEROUSLY THREATEN HIS REMAINING POLITICAL FOLLOWING IN ZAMBIA.

4. NEVERTHELESS KAUNDA IS AN EMOTIONAL AND SOMWHAT UNSTABLE MAN WHO IS CAPABLE OF CUTTING OFF HIS NOSE TO SPITE HIS FACE ON SUBJECTS IN WHICH HE IS DEEPLY COMMITTED.

5. IT IS OUR VIEW THAT KAUNDA WILL RAISE THE RHODESIAN SUBJECT IN TERMS SIMILAR TO THOSE EXPRESSED TO LEGUM AND MARTIN BUT
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STOPPING SHORT OF THE BALD THREAT HE MADE TO THEM. HE UNDOUBTEDLY ASSUMES THAT HIS CONVERSATION WITH LEGUM WILL BE REPORTED IN LONDON AND WASHINGTON AND THEREFORE THAT THE GROUND WILL BE PREPARED.

6. WASHINGTON WILL KNOW BETTER HOW TO RESPOND TO AN APPROACH LIKE THIS. IN OUR VIEW THERE IT WOULD PROVIDE AN OPENING TO URGE ON KAUNDA THE IMPORTANCE OF PROCEEDING WITH NEGOTIATIONS THAT CAN END IN AN AGREEMENT INVOLVING THE PRINCIPAL RHODESIAN NATIONALISTS. SUCH AN AGREEMENT WOULD PERMIT US TO PUT THE FULL FORCE OF OUR AUTHORITY BEHIND SMITH'S DEPARTURE FROM THE SECENE. ESSENTIAL TO THIS IS KAUNDA'S PERSONAL INFLUENCE AND INVOLVEMENT TO ENCOURAGE NEGOTIATION OF AN AGREEMENT WHICH KEEPS THE DOOR OPEN TO THE INTERNAL NATIONALISTS PARTICULARLY MUZOREWA. COMMUNICATION THROUGH INFORMAL CONTACT AND PARTICULARLY THE ALL PARTIES MEETING IS NECESSARY FOR THIS PROCESS AND CAN ONLY PROSPER WITH KAUNDA'S SUPPORT.
LOW

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